

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing usage of a plurality of standby resources included within a plurality of computers, wherein each computer of the plurality of computers includes at least one standby resource of the plurality of resources, the method comprising:

limiting availability to a first standby resource included within a source computer of the plurality of computers; and
programmatically transferring the availability to a second standby resource included within a destination computer of the plurality of computers, wherein the source and destination computers are geographically dispersed from one another.

2. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes verifying the limiting availability.

3. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes maintaining a physical distribution of the first and second standby resources as between the source and destination computers.

4. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes maintaining respective workloads as between the source and destination computers.

5. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes updating an entitlement database.

6. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a request to downgrade the availability.

7. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, further comprising using an entitlement application computer to manage the usage.

8. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a request to upgrade the availability.

9. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein limiting the availability further includes generating a signature indicative of the availability.

10. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein limiting the availability further includes generating an activation code.

11. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein limiting the availability further includes determining the first standby resource.

12. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes determining the second standby resource.

13. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes generating an activation code.

14. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes storing data associated with the transferring.

15. (Original) The method for managing usage of the plurality of standby resources of claim 1, wherein transferring the availability further includes determining an availability status using an entitlement database.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a source computer including a first standby resource;
a destination computer including a second standby resource and
geographically dispersed from the source computer; and
program code in communication with at least one of the source and destination computers, the program code configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby resource and to programmatically transfer the availability to the second standby resource.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a memory including a record relating to respective availabilities of the first and second standby resources.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an entitlement computer for managing the availability.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates verifying the availability.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a physical distribution of the first and second standby resources remains the same as between the source and destination computers.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein respective workloads as between the source and destination computers is unaffected by the programmatic transfer.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates updating an entitlement database.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a request to downgrade the availability.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a request to upgrade the availability.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating a signature indicative of the availability.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates generating an activation code.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining the first standby resource.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining the second standby resource.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates storing data associated with the programmatic transfer.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program code initiates determining an availability status using an entitlement database.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor in communication with both a source computer including a first standby resource and a destination computer including a second standby resource, wherein the source and destination computers are geographically dispersed from one another; and
program code executable by the processor and configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby resource and to programmatically transfer the availability to the second standby resource.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the program code is further configured to initiate generating a fee associated with the programmatic transfer.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor;
a source computer including a first standby resource in communication with the processor; and
program code executable by the processor, the program code configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby resource, wherein the availability is transferred to a second standby resource of a destination computer, wherein the source and destination computers are geographically dispersed from one another.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor;
a destination computer including a first standby resource in communication with the processor; and
program code executable by the processor, the program code configured to initiate increasing availability to the first standby resource, wherein the availability is transferred from a second standby resource of a source computer, wherein the source and destination computers are geographically dispersed from one another.

35. (Currently Amended) A program product, comprising:
- (a) program code in communication with at least one of the geographically dispersed source and destination computers having access to first and second standby resources, respectively, the program code configured to initiate limiting availability to the first standby resource and to programmatically transfer the availability to the second standby resource; and
 - (b) a recordable computer-readable medium bearing the program code.
36. (Canceled).